

LT. GOVERNOR JOHN GARAMENDI PRAISES GROUNDBREAKING FOR HISTORIC NEW WATER PROJECT TO BENEFIT SACRAMENTO AND EAST BAY RESIDENTS

Project resulting from historic water accord will provide vital water supplies for Northern California communities.

SACRAMENTO - Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi joined Sacramento and East Bay leaders on Monday to celebrate the start of a massive new regional project to shore up California water supplies.

The Freeport Regional Water Project (FRWP) is a national model for regional partnerships to develop new water resources. As Deputy Secretary of the Interior during the 1990s, Lt. Governor Garamendi was instrumental in bringing the two parties together to form this historic partnership. The project will provide a critical new water supply for 1.3 million East Bay water customers during drought years and a supplemental supply for Sacramento residents.

“California's water supply is in an extremely fragile state because of global climate change and other environmental factors,” said Garamendi. “It has become even more critical in recent years to undertake efforts to protect our precious water resources and ensure that communities receive the supplies they need.”

The FRWP is a joint venture of the Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA) and East Bay

Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) of Oakland to supply water from the Sacramento River to customers in Sacramento County and the East Bay.

Water will be drawn from the Sacramento River at an intake facility and pumping plant located in Sacramento, upstream of the town of Freeport, and transported east through Sacramento County by new large diameter pipelines.

When operational in 2010, the FRWP will provide SCWA with up to 85 million gallons of water per day. SCWA will supply this water to Sacramento County customers to supplement groundwater use in the central part of the county.

EBMUD will use up to 100 million gallons per day of water during dry years only, estimated to be three out of every 10 years, as a supplemental water source to complement existing conservation programs. (Information courtesy of FRWP. For more details, visit <http://www.freeportproject.org/>

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For Immediate Release
May 7, 2007
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